

Message Text

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11

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01 ISO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-15 PCH-08 SAJ-01 /181 R

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APPROVED BY NEA: KORN

S/S-O -W NEWLIN

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O R 140555Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CURACAO BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

S E C R E T STATE 203652

INFORM CONSULS

KUWAIT POUCH MUSCAT DOHA

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

SUVA, BANJUL, CURACAO, MARTINIQUE VIA POUCH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

1. FOLLOWING FYI IS MIDDLE EAST SITUATION THROUGH EVENING

OCTOBER 13:

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2. MILITARY SITUATION: ISRAELIS ARE CONTINUING TO CONDUCT

A HOLDING ACTION ON EGYPTIAN FRONT WHILE CONCENTRATING THEIR EFFORTS AGAINST SYRIAN FORCES, JOINED NOW BY IRAQI TROOPS. THUS FAR ISRAELI FORCES HAVE NOT ENGAGED TOKEN JORDANIAN FORCE WHICH IS REPORTED TO HAVE JOINED SYRIANS. ON SYRIAN FRONT, ISRAELIS CLAIM TO BE MOVING TOWARD DAMASCUS SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE CASUALTIES. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT ISRAELI FORCES HAVE PUSHED TO A POINT ONLY 16 MILES FROM DAMASCUS AND ARE SHELLING TARGETS NEAR THE SYRIAN CAPITAL. UNTSO SOURCES IN JERUSALEM, HOWEVER, QUESTION THAT ISRAELIS HAVE MOVED SO FAR INTO SYRIA. ON EGYPTIAN FRONT, ISRAELIS TELL US THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE COMBAT ACTIVITY BUT THAT EGYPTIANS ARE CONTINUING TO MOVE MEN AND EQUIPMENT TO EAST BANK. TWO SA-2 AND TWO SA 3 SITES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED ON THE EAST BANK WHERE EGYPTIANS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE COLLECTED BETWEEN 1100 AND 1300 TANKS.

3. THERE WAS LITTLE AIR ACTIVITY ON EGYPTIAN FRONT. ISRAELIS REPORT HAVING CONDUCTED LIMITED GROUND ATTACK SORTIES ALONG THE FRONT WHILE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE LAUNCHED A SMALL ATTACK ON ISRAELI INSTALLATIONS BEHIND THE FRONT LINES. EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT ALSO ATTACKED MITLA PASS. ON SYRIAN FRONT, ISRAELI AIRCRAFT FLEW CLOSE SUPPORT OPERATIONS AND ALSO ATTACKED AIRFIELDS IN SOUTHERN SYRIA. SYRIAN AIRCRAFT FLEW STRIKE SORTIES AGAINST ISRAELI GROUND FORCES. MEANWHILE, SOVIETS ARE CONTINUING THEIR AIR LIFT TO EGYPT, SYRIA, AND IRAQ.

4. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROTESTED OVERFLIGHT OF ITS TERRITORY BY US RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT AND HAS REQUESTED CLARIFICATION. MEANWHILE, CHARGES OF U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT CONTINUE TO RING OUT FROM ARAB QUARTERS DESPITE DEPARTMENT'S CLEAR DENIAL. BAHREIN HAS INFORMED U.S. THAT BECAUSE OF OPEN U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL, IT IS CONSIDERING TERMINATION OF THE STATIONING AGREEMENT WHICH PERMITS MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE THERE. TWO MORE AFRICAN COUNTRIES, EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND CAMAROOON, HAVE BROKEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND THERE IS CONCERN IN TEL AVIV THAT THE FEW

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REMAINING AFRICAN STATES MIGHT FOLLOW SUIT.

5. PRIME MINISTER MEIR DURING PRESS CONFERENCE ON OCT. 13 BLAMED THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE WARFARE SAYING THAT SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING ARABS AWAY FROM A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND TOWARDS A MASSIVE ATTACK ON ISRAEL. ISRAEL HAS ALSO PROTESTED TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM WHAT IT TERMED

SYSTEMATIC ATTACKS FROM TERRORIST SQUADS IN LEBANON
AGAINST CIVILIAN TARGETS IN NORTHERN ISRAEL. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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